

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 MC-02 SY-10 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 081100Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8728

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: DGS APPREHENDS LUAR ACTIVISTS

REF: LISBON 3177; A-234 OF OCTOBER 17, 1972

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE SECURITY POLICE (DGS) REPORT ARREST OF FIVE MEMBERS OF PORTUGUESE LEAGUE OF UNION AND REVOLUTIONARY ACTION (LUAR), AND SEIZURE OF ARMS, FALSE DOCUMENTS, EXPLOSIVES, ETC. AS A RESULT LUAR, ALREADY WEAK, APPEARS TO BE SERIOUSLY CRIPPLED. END SUMMARY.

1. DGS COMMUNIQUE RELEASED NOVEMBER 7 REPORTS THAT FOUR SABOTEURS ARRESTED IN AUGUST (REFTEL) AND THEIR TWO RECENTLY CAPTURED ACCOMPLICES ARE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF UNION AND REVOLUTIONARY ACTION (LUAR). ORIGINAL SPECULATION WAS THAT GROUP WAS ON A SABOTAGE MISSION FOR ALGIERS-BASED MARXIST-LENINIST REVOLUTIONARY BRIGADE, MILITANT WING OF PORTUGUESE FAR LEFT POPULAR FRONT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (FPLN).

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2. DGS CLAIMS THAT, AFTER INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION, IT HAS MANAGED APPREHEND TWO LUAR MEMBERS WHO ESCAPED INTO PORTUGAL IN AUGUST BORDER SHOOTOUT. IT IDENTIFIED THEM AS RAFAEL DOS SANTOS GALEGO, 23 AND RAMIRO ANTUNES RAIMUNDO, 22. BOTH ARE ARMY DESERTERS, AND LATTER IS EX-SEMINARY STUDENT.

3. DGS ALSO ARRESTED THREE OTHER INDIVIDUALS FOR AIDING LUAR: MANUEL MARTINS FELIZARDO, 35, WHO HID TWO FUGITIVES; ACACIO FRAGOSO JUSTO, 22, WHO SUPPLIED AMMUNITION AND FALSE DOCUMENTS; AND MANUEL JOSE COELHO SILVA ABRACOS, 24, ARMY DESERTER WHO ENTERED PORTUGAL SEPARATELY BUT AT SAME TIME AS TWO FUGITIVES.

4. FOUR LUAR ACTIVISTS DETAINED BY SPANISH CIVIL GUARD SINCE AUGUST WERE IDENTIFIED BY DGS NOTE AS EX-DEACON JOAQUIM ALBERTO LOPES SIMOES, 34, A PRINCIPAL LEADER IN CHARGE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND CO-FOUNDER OF LUAR ALONG WITH HERMINIO DA PALMA INACIO (REFAIR); JOES HORACIO PIRES MATINS, 33; JOSE JAO GAGO SEMIAO, 30; GABRIEL ANTUNES RAMUNDO, 28, WHOSE BROTHER RAMIRO THE DGS PICKED UP. ALL FOUR ARE DESERTERS FROM PORTUGUESE ARMY, AND HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION WHEN ARRESTED FALSE PASSPORTS, IDENTITY CARDS AND COUNTERFEIT SEALS AND STAMPS OF VARIOUS PORTUGUESE MINISTERIES, CIVIL GOVERNORS, CONSULATES, AND MILITARY UNITS.

5. ACCORDING TO DGS COMMUNIQUE, LUAR'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO DISRUPT THE OCTOBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BY CARRYING OUT TERRORIST ACTS, SUCH AS BANK ROBBERIES, KIDNAPPINGS, SEIZURE OF A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER, ASSULTS OF PORTUGUESE POLICE POSTS, BOMBINGS, AND FREEING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. DGS SAID INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AND THAT IT HOPES TO CRUSH LUAR ACTIVISTS AND SYMPATHIZERS.

6. COMMENT: IN PAST LUAR OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY OUTSIDE PORTUGAL (REFAIR). LUAR'S INABILITY TO MOUNT EFFECTIVE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WITHIN PORTUGAL TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS SMALL AND WEAK. THE LOSS OF NINE LUAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVISTS IN THIS ABORTED OPERATION SUPPORTS CONCLUSION THAT LUAR MAY BE SERIOUSLY CRIPPLED AS REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION.
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